(MOU), wherever required, is entered into with State Governments in this regard. Names of such 39 airports are Behala, Jharsuguda, Malda, Port Blair, Jammu, Leh, Kota, Dehradun, Ludhiana, Warangal, Vijaywada, Rajahmundry, Tirupathi, Cuddapah, Mysore, Belgaum, Hubli, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, Coimbatore, Tuticorin, Vellore, Agatti, Bhavnagar, Kandla, Porbandar, Jabalpur, Goa, Pune, Jamnagar, Akola, Along, Daparizo, Zeero, Kamalpur, Kailashahar, Bagdogra, Jorhat and Tezu.

Reduction of airfare

1582. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has advised to various airlines to reduce their air fare;

(b) if so, the reaction of the private airlines;

(c) whether Government has also directed the airlines particularly Low Cost airlines, to give compensation to their passengers for delay or cancellation of flights for technical or other reasons; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Airlines thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air fares are not being regulated by the Government. Airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces. Now, with decreasing prices of ATF the Airlines have started reducing fares. However, Airlines are also affected by the global financial downturn of the economy.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, full service airlines provide adequate facilities to the passengers which include provision of food, hotel accommodation, conveyance, cash compensation, etc. as per their company policy in vogue. Low cost airlines also provide refreshments to passengers in case the flight is delayed more than two hours.

Air facilities in North East

1583. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of the proposal for introducing a regional air services dedicated to the North Eastern Region (NER);

(b) by when it is likely to be operated;

(c) whether his Ministry has planned to increase the number and frequency of flights to various locations of the NER;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the operational status of the flying club at Guwahati and about the Pilot Training Institute being established with the funding of North East Council (NEC)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has granted initial NOC to ZAV Air to operate scheduled regional air services within Eastern and North-Eastern region. The operator has yet to submit their papers indicating their plan of operations.